

DOCKET NO: 258014US0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
EDWIN NUN, ET AL. : EXAMINER: O'HERN, B. T.
SERIAL NO: 10/506,993 :
FILED: SEPTEMBER 9, 2004 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1794
FOR: SHAPING METHOD FOR :
PRODUCING SHAPED BODIES WITH AT
LEAST ONE SURFACE THAT HAS SELF-
CLEANING PROPERTIES, AND SHAPED
BODIES PRODUCED ACCORDING TO
THIS METHOD

REPLY BRIEF

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

The following Reply Brief is in reply to the Examiner's Answer dated October 25, 2007 (Answer).

The statement of the grounds of rejection (Answer at 2-5) is identical to the statement in the Office Action dated April 30, 2007, which grounds have been responded to in the Appeal Brief. Thus, this Reply Brief will be confined to the Response to Argument (Answer at 5-8).

In the Appeal Brief, Applicants had emphasized various limitations in Claim 11, both to emphasize structural or structurally-related limitations, and/or to distinguish over Hüffer et al. The Examiner continues to dismiss all of these limitations and ignores Applicants' argument in the Appeal Brief that to the extent process limitations distinguish the claimed molding from the prior art, they must be considered.

The Examiner cites to column 9, lines 57-61; column 3, lines 57-66; column 7, lines 46-65; column 4, lines 20-22 and 25-40; and column 5, lines 8-20 to support a finding that Hüffer et al's "self-cleaning surface of its polymeric molding having embedded microparticles clearly has the ability to be softened and thermally shaped" (Answer at 6).

In reply, neither these excerpts from Hüffer et al, or any other description in Hüffer et al, supports the above-quoted finding. Thus, as stated in the Appeal Brief, the protuberances formed as a result of Hüffer et al's application of their currentless coating layer cannot possibly be embedded in the underlying parts.

The Examiner finds that the issue of whether or not the protuberances of Hüffer et al are embedded in an underlying part "is not the issue at bar" but rather Hüffer et al's "teachings of Applicant's claimed structural limitations" (Answer at 6-7).

In reply, the Examiner is only half correct. Both are issues herein. As stated above, Hüffer et al's protuberances are **not** embedded in an underlying part, and Hüffer et al does not disclose or suggest the presently-recited structural limitations.

In response to Applicants' argument in the Appeal Brief that Baumann et al neither discloses nor suggests directly embedding particles into the molding as required by the claims, the Examiner finds that Baumann et al discloses embedding, relying on the disclosure therein at column 4, lines 23-27.

In reply, this disclosure is with regard to embedding structure forming particles in a system obtained during a firing of a coating glass or a vitreous or enameled substrate with a composition comprising boric acid and/or an alkali metal phosphate and structure forming particles. Such a system is not a molding composition comprising at least one material comprising organic compounds, as required by the present claims.

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Reply Brief

Applicants continue to maintain that all of the rejections should be REVERSED.

Customer Number

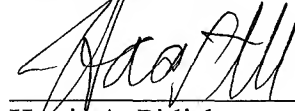
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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harris A. Pitlick", is written over a horizontal line.

Harris A. Pitlick
Registration No. 38,779